

Center is located on the first floor of the county courthouse and provides a one-stop-shop for many county services. Furthermore, Mr. Doyle spearheaded the development and implementation of Larimer County's innovative Vote Center concept. This concept has earned national recognition as a cost effective way of implementing the goals and requirements of the Help America Vote Act.

During Mr. Doyle's remarkable career, his commitment to public service has been unmistakable. While serving our country in the Navy, Mr. Doyle worked on nuclear submarines and for Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC. He has also served as a Wyoming State Patrol officer, Public Information Officer for the Wyoming Air and Water Quality Division, and Hazardous Waste Manager for the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Larimer County Clerk and Recorder Scott Doyle's dedication to his community and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Doyle's unrivaled commitment to public service.

#### TRIBUTE TO TINA ARAPKILES

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a dear friend and a good citizen, Ms. Tina Arapkiles. Tina recently "retired" from the Rocky Mountain Regional office of Sierra Club to spend more time with her family and other pursuits. I have known Tina for many years and have the highest regard for her work on behalf of conservation and the environment.

Tina's reputation for gentle, but persuasive, advocacy is well known in Colorado and I think it is fair to say that she has admirers from across the broad spectrum of public opinion, and not just from within the environmental community. Certainly, her reputation with members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation (past and present) from both parties has been above reproach.

Advocacy in the public arena is all too often characterized by angry debate and an unhealthy appetite for making villains out of those with whom one disagrees. This has never been Tina's way, and it is much to her credit that she leaves her service at the Sierra Club with a well-deserved reputation for thoughtfulness and respect for others. Her example of quiet, but determined and passionate advocacy, is one I greatly admire.

For the last 20 years, she has been a consistent advocate for protecting the West's land, air, water, and wildlife. She began her work on these matters with a lobbying trip to Washington to help pass the Superfund law in 1985. In 1989 and 1990, she worked with Congress to revise the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. She has worked to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge since the inception of the campaign and has been a staunch supporter of Utah wilderness.

She also helped pass the California Desert Protection Act and the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. In fact, Tina, some say, single-handedly gained protections for the Wheeler Peak area. She also worked to designate Colorado's first Wild and Scenic River—the

Cache la Poudre along Colorado's northern Front Range just north and east of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Because of her work on environmental issues and her reputation for thoughtful advocacy, Tina was invited to be a member of the Denver Post's Community Roundtable in 1995 to discuss international trade issues. She was also appointed in 1992 to the Board of Editorial Contributors for the Rocky Mountain News to offer regular perspectives on environmental policy.

In January of 2000, Tina directed the Southern Rockies Wolf Restoration Project, a coalition of groups and individuals that played a strong role in the Colorado Wolf Working Group, which pushed the State to allow wolves to roam freely throughout the State. Her essay on wolves and camping with her family appears in the recently published collection *Comeback Wolves*.

She highlights working with Sierra Club volunteers as one of the best memories of her job, as well as attending the signing of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 in Colorado by President Clinton.

In addition to her work in the public arena, Tina has perhaps the more important distinction of successfully raising two children. For anyone who knows Tina, it is clear that her passion for the natural world is directly related to her interest in humanity. She cares deeply about Mother Earth, not because trees are more important than people, but because people need trees and all the other wonders of the natural world in order to be fully human.

Although she is leaving a distinguished career of service on behalf of the environment, and will be missed at the Colorado State capitol and in the halls of Congress, I know she will continue to be active in all the causes that she believes in, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her the very best in her future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES REYOME

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Mr. James Reyome on his retirement as Public Works Director for the Town of Griffith. James has spent over 40 years of his life dedicated to the interests of the residents of Griffith, Indiana. His career in public service has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people.

James has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. He started his career with the Griffith Police Department in 1962, where he worked until 1983, spending the last 7 years as Chief of Police. James also worked security at LTV Steel. He then became Lake County Police Chief under then Sheriff Bob Stiglich. In 1997, he was named Town of Griffith Public Works Director, a position his father held for 20 years. However, shortly before assuming the position of Public Works Director, James had a major stroke, followed by 2 milder strokes in 2002 and August 2005, which caused him to speed up his retirement plans.

James's family and friends should be proud of his efforts, as his leadership has served as

a beacon of hope throughout the community. His longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for the citizens in Griffith, Indiana is truly inspirational and should be commended. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service, uncompromising dedication, and loyalty displayed by Mr. Reyome.

While James has dedicated a considerable amount of time and energy to his community, he has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest: his family. James and his wife, Anna, have 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. James Reyome for his outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. His unselfish, lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

#### HONORING MARY UBER FOR HER SUCCESSES

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Uber for her success in overcoming disabilities to become a high quality worker. Please insert the following article from the Jamestown Post Journal of December 18, 2005 into the RECORD.

STATE AGENCY NAMES JAMESTOWN WOMAN  
"OUTSTANDING PERFORMER"

Mary Uber of Jamestown recently was honored by the state as an "Outstanding Performer" for her success in overcoming disabilities to become a high-quality worker.

Ms. Uber was recognized by New York State Industries for the Disabled as part of its annual program to acknowledge exceptional job performance and personal success by people with disabilities employed on NYSID contracts. She has a job through The Resource Center's Environmental Services division, which employs people with disabilities in janitorial jobs throughout Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. Some of its cleaning contracts come to The Resource Center through NYSID.

Ms. Uber has overcome disabilities and a history of short-term job experiences to become a successful member of the Environmental Services team. While lacking in self-assurance at first, Ms. Uber, who now is in her fifth year as a custodian, proved that she had a desire to work and was willing to try any job assigned to her. She has grown tremendously in terms of personal maturity and her ability on the job.

Due to hard work and personal growth, Ms. Uber was promoted to the position of leader of a three-person crew that cleans the Western New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office in Little Valley. As the lead member of the crew, she is responsible for seeing that all cleaning tasks are completed and supplies are on hand. She must also communicate with the customer as well as her supervisor, who says of Ms. Uber, "She takes charge, thinks on her feet and can lead others."

With the Resource Center's assistance, Ms. Uber has obtained her driver's license, so she now can transport her crew members and cleaning supplies to Little Valley, and she

also is able to work extra cleaning jobs at some of Environmental Services' other contract sites.

The Resource Center honored Ms. Uber as part of its observance of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Ms. Uber has overcome many odds to set herself apart and achieve great things, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

#### THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, pension plans are today underfunded in this country by \$450 billion—up over 1,000 percent since 2000—and the agency that insures these pension plans, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, is \$23 billion in debt, facing billions more in possible claims from companies such as Delta Airlines, Delphi, and Northwest Airlines.

Why? Well, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle give the same excuse every time: September 11. We are at war. Times are tough. But during that same time, corporate profits have risen an astonishing 50 percent and CEO compensation has grown even faster. Indeed, USA Today reports that 300 executives responsible for more than three-quarters of a trillion dollars in corporate losses since 2000 were rewarded with salary, bonuses and stock options totaling a staggering \$12 billion—\$8 million per year.

Times are not so tough for them—and little wonder. As a confidential letter sent to the SEC shows, CEO compensation at many publicly traded companies bears no relation to company performance. But as we all know, pensions do.

And when we talk about pensions and why reform is so badly needed, we should remember who it is that depend on them most—we are talking about people who have worked all their lives and are looking to enjoy their later years with some measure of financial security. Most of the 34 million Americans who are covered by a traditional pension that provides a guaranteed monthly benefit in retirement are not young adults starting out, with their whole careers in front of them—people who can change course at a moment's notice. These are very often seniors, people who have raised families; again, people who have worked their entire lives and paid not only their taxes but their dues to society with the expectation that what they have invested will be returned to them. The least we can do as their elected representatives is tell them that we will ensure that the Government does its part to guarantee that their employers will honor their end of this bargain.

That should be the bedrock principle on which this legislation is predicated, but it is not. H.R. 2830 fails to protect older and longer-service workers that are involved in cash balance pension plan conversions. It does not prevent employers from giving the same conflicted financial advice to their workers that gave us Enron and WorldCom. And perhaps most disturbingly, it fails to stop companies from dumping billions of dollars of unfunded pension obligations onto the PBGC by

declaring bankruptcy at the expense of taxpayers and employees.

And let's be clear, that is very much by design. The goal of this Republican majority from the beginning with pension reform these last few years has been the same—relieving companies from their obligations to employees, providing an out to the point where we would have no choice but to switch from a strong pension system to one that leaves retirees in a much more tentative, less secure financial state. And with Republicans in charge these last 4 years, we have almost reached that point—but not quite yet.

But this is not the direction we want to take as a country. And so, I urge my colleagues to make a statement with this vote that says companies do have obligations their workers—that says reforming our pension system is possible but only if we ask employees and employers alike to share in the benefits and the sacrifice. We can do better than this bill and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

#### TRIBUTE TO CPT MICHAEL GONSMAN

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CPT Michael Gonsman of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Captain Gonsman of Altoona, PA, served in Beiji, Iraq for 11 months. In addition to serving our country on the streets of Iraq, Captain Gonsman serves his home community as a member of the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department.

Captain Gonsman has dedicated 19 years to the fire department, serving as a truck foreman and a line officer. His fellow firefighters were like family to him, and while it was difficult for him to leave them and his wife and three children, he courageously moved forward to serve his country.

His fellow firefighters have said that he has always been dedicated to serving his country, and he has done just that. Captain Gonsman, who served as company commander, bravely led his soldiers to help the people of Iraq. He loved serving, and felt that the local people appreciated their presence.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Gonsman's fire department chief regarded him as a person who worked to better himself while helping others, and was willing to do anything he can for people in need. Through his service in Iraq and on the Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department, he has proven that he is still that way today. The citizens of Duncansville and I would like to thank Captain Gonsman for his service and dedication to his country and community.

#### TRIBUTE TO RADM MICHAEL G. MATHIS

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral Michael G.

Mathis, United States Navy, for his more than 30 years of active duty service to our country. Admiral Mathis most recently served as the deputy commander for Test and Evaluation at the Naval Sea Systems Command and he retired on January 26, 2006.

For over two decades, Admiral Mathis shaped the Navy's strategic planning of surface ship combat systems, from electronic warfare and tactical data systems to advanced radars and several generations of surface-to-air missiles. He is the rare combination of leadership at sea, exceptional engineering and scientific accomplishments, and success as a program executive and program manager. Serving tirelessly as a Navy and Joint leader, including as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Chief Engineer, Admiral Mathis kept the spotlight on the RDT&E required to meet the Department of Defense's current and future needs.

In his many years as the leader of the Surface Navy's acquisition professionals, as well as the Navy's senior expert in advanced and future weapons systems, Admiral Mathis instilled pride in generations of naval officers and civilian engineers. A strong proponent of technical proficiency in naval officers, he promoted the Navy's advanced science and engineering degree programs for junior officers.

Admiral Mathis's inspirational leadership and management of the 22,000 men and women of the Naval Surface Warfare Systems Command during wartime has directly contributed to the tremendous record of success in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including the fielding of thermobaric weapons and innovative Force Protection advances developed in his warfare center laboratories. He put the weapons and tools in the hands of the warfighters when they were needed. Most recently, his talents and dedication to our warfighters were further put to use by our country as he served in the Joint Staff as Deputy Director, J-8 for Force Protection.

Throughout his career, the Navy's leadership selected Admiral Mathis for a series of key positions to mold the technical direction of the Navy's Theatre Missile Defense program. His foresight, vision, and management decisions led to the development and continuing success of missile defense programs vital to our Nation's defense. Key among his assignments was as the Director, Joint Theater Air and Missile Defense Organization, where he was responsible to the Chairman and Secretary of Defense for evaluating systems and emerging technologies to determine the optimum mix of surveillance, fire control systems, and the associated battle management system to counter aircraft, cruise missile and ballistic missile threats to our Nation.

More than just a leader providing the technical punch for the global war on terror, Admiral Mathis has focused on maintaining our Nation's technological edge in future weapons systems. He is the senior advocate and leader for the RDT&E in laser and directed energy weapons, inspiring industry and government engineers to solve engineering challenges and ensuring our next generation of warfighters has the weapons needed to win. He has championed the need for battle force, joint, and coalition interoperability and warfighting capabilities, serving as the Single Integrated Air Picture System Engineer for